

OUTSIDE SOURCE

March 12, 1982

11-7
Judge William Webster
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs;

Public Response Re Abscam
I applaud your actions in the so called "Abscam" operations, and am sure the results will be a deterrent which will influence the attitude of our Federal legislators for the betterment of our country.

I am motivated to write this letter by the fact that the Senate proposes an investigation of the F.B.I. based on the request of a convicted criminal whom some of them referred to as a courageous hero!

The Senate should have had to complete it's censure/expulsion proceedings regardless of Senator Williams resignation so that we the public would know if they represented us or their own interests, as was being demonstrated by Senator Cranston. They sure got off the hook by Williams resignation!

Please keep up the good work, this country's biggest problem is the duplicity of our elected representatives and the apathy it causes amongst the general public, the "what's the use with crooks we have in government", syndrome.

Very Truly

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]
CA

b-6

EXP-PROC
40 MAR 19 1982

63-17541-391

4-9
12 MAY 18 1982

68 MAY 21 1982

ack: on mid 4/17/82

COPIES/center

CALIFORNIA

OUTSIDE SOURCE

March 15, 1982

William H. Webster
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Webster, *Public Response P. 111 and*

This is just a short note to thank you and the F.B.I., for your work with Abscam. We need more, not less, monitoring of our elected officials. Private citizens have little chance, even with an informed and vocal press (media), to exercise any restraint on our legislators.

As a democrat, I'm ashamed of the attitude taken by our Senators from California — Alan Cranston. S.I. Hayakawa's attitude was not much better. For them to waste our money "investigating" an investigating specialist is ridiculous at best. Keep up the good work and feel free to show this letter to any of my legislators.

23 APR 5 1982

Sincerely yours, *b-6*

[Redacted Signature]

CONFIDENTIAL

CCR:CHM:JCB 4/17/82

May 12/82

William Webster

OUTSIDE SOURCE

FBI

11/1 Washington DC

Dear Cousin Bill Public Response Re NBS case

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I am sending to Gordon Humphrey.

I am back of you 100% and all I can say is "keep up the good work."

Is your Webster background from John E. Webster who settled in Ipswich Mass or his brother who settled in Conn?

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b-6

h#

11
ENCLOSURE

63-17561-395

23 APR 8 1982

ACK
4-7-82
FBI

110

CORRESPONDENCE

Mar 12/82

Gordon Humphrey
U.S. Senate
Washington DC

Dear Gordon

I read in the Union Leader today that you would have voted to expell Williams but was in favor of an investigation into the FBI's activities.

To me, I feel that every single one of you in the senate who vote for such an investigation are scared to death that their activities might be investigated by the FBI.

I am back of what the FBI did and maybe it will put a damper on being sure that each member of the senate watch their own personal dealings.

How come some senators go in with no visible wealth and leave millions? Because they know their way around.

Regards

copy to
Wm. Webster

63-17561-395

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] N

OUTSIDE SOURCE

3/12/82

CA

Open Response Re ALSCAM

FBI,
9th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Gentlemen:

I wish to express my appreciation for your uncompromising actions in the exposure of the individuals in Congress or out who use their positions of trust for personal enrichment.

In my opinion Senator Williams behaved like a greedy child.

I have made my opinion clear to Senator Cranston.

Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

10
(Signature)

b-6

63-17561-397

17 APR 5 1982

4/2/82

ack

NB: DAL

68 MAY 12 1982

(Signature)

Public Response re Abscam

Washington D.C.

15 APR 13 1982

b-b

THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

3015300834 MGM TDBN BEL SDA MD 188 03-23 0124A ES

ZIP

HONORABLE ALAN CRANSTON
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON DC 20510

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Repulse Re ABSCAM

SIR:

MY CONTENTION, BASED UPON MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, IS THAT A WELL EXECUTED, MAJOR FEDERAL INVESTIGATION SUCH AS THE ABSCAM WAS LONG OVERDUE, PARTICULARLY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

SINCE I FEEL THAT THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE COMMENDED RATHER THAN INVESTIGATED BY CONGRESS I WISH TO REDRESS MY GRIEVANCE BEFORE ALL CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS RELATED TO THE ABSCAM INVESTIGATION. I EXPECT THAT A PANEL OF EXPERTS WITH BROAD, DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING FIELDS BE PRESENT TO HEAR MY TESTIMONY. KINDLY ADVISE ME OF ALL THE DATES AND TIMES THAT MY APPEARANCES WILL BE REQUIRED. I AWAIT YOUR TIMELY RESPONSE AND A SIMILAR RESPONSE FROM ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS COPIED ON THIS MAILGRAM.

SIGNED CONFIRMATION COPIES OF THIS MAILGRAM WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU AND ALL COPIED BELOW.

SINCERELY,

*Honorable William H. Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535*

MD

V-10r

DE-22

63-17561-421

2

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR WESTERN UNION'S TOLL - FREE PHONE NUMBERS

western union

Mailgram



CC PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
HONORABLE WARREN E BURGER
HONORABLE WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH,
HONORABLE WILLIAM H WEBSTER
ADMIRAL H G RICKOVER
HONORABLE GEORGE PRATT
HONORABLE THOMAS PUCCIO
HONORABLE TED STEVENS
HONORABLE DON EDWARDS
HONORABLE WILLIAM J HUGHES

60 MAY 13 1982

APR 12 1982

MD

*Copy - No Ack
Warranted b6
Correspondent is
identifiable with b7c
Bufiles*

OUTSIDE SOURCE

March 19, 1982

Senator Arlin Spector
Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Room 253
Washington, D. C. 20510

Director William H. Webster
F.B.I. Building
Pennsylvania Ave. & 9th St.N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Sir:

I am in favor of continued Abscam type operations by the FBI.

If the FBI does not investigate corruption in high government office, who will?

I don't know anybody who believes that the politicians involved in Abscam were innocent victims, lured to their downfall by clever men. I believe that you should survey your constituency before joining those politicians who may have personal reasons for attempting to place themselves off-limits to sting type operations.

cc: Director Wm. A. Webster ✓
FBI - Washington

12 APR 13 1982

CORRESPONDENCE

68-111-345
ack: m:iddb 4/8/82

March 14, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

William H. Webster, Esq.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge: Public Response Re Abscam

Enclosed you will find a news article and an editorial clipped from today's hometown paper.

Although the matter of an agent accepting a loan from Mel Weinberg is of no small concern, we do not agree with the editorial. As for your quoted remarks, we say "Right on!"

And may I add congratulations on the recent local sting operation Leblanc Motors.

V:10Z

DE-42

Very truly yours,

APR 14 1982

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

MAY 17 1982

OFF. OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

403

Webster Defends FBI Conduct In Abscam Inquiry

William Freivogel
Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — William H. Webster, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, says the real use revealed by the Abscam investigation was not the bureau's undercover techniques but the political fund-raising used by persons who want to bribe members of Congress.

Webster said in an interview Friday that he hoped that Congress would turn its attention to fund-raising after it criticizes the FBI's conduct of Abscam. Webster's statements were his first detailed response to the criticism of the

FBI heard last week as the Senate debated whether to expel Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr., D-N.J. Williams was convicted of Abscam offenses but resigned before a vote on expulsion could be taken.

Webster strongly defended the investigation, which led to convictions for seven members of Congress. He termed Abscam a "service to the nation."

"We've been hearing so much... hyperbole in the highly emotional situation this week," he said. "It tends to ignore the record that is in the court on all of these cases for everyone to review."

He compared the FBI's role in the Senate proceedings last week to that of "a defendant without counsel during all of these highly publicized charges." He said he could provide the Senate with answers to the charges. Senators announced after Williams resigned that they would investigate the FBI's conduct of Abscam.

Webster said he hoped that one of the regular committees that oversees the FBI would do the investigating. Setting up a special committee would be unfair, he said.

Once those hearings are completed, Webster would like to see Congress

examine what he called the gray area in laws on campaign contributions.

"The real problem is the pervasive effort to corrupt congressmen through bogus campaign contributions in return for certain specific legislative activity," he said.

Webster said that he wanted to let his comments on Abscam to percolate a while to cool down. Responding to criticism that Abscam was "sleazy," Webster said the operation was supposed to be just that.

"It was based on being sleazy," he said. "The sleaziness in part prompted

See ABSCAM, Page 18

Abscam

FROM PAGE ONE

them," he said.

Webster defended his decision for agents to offer a bribe to Sen. Larry Pressler, R-S.D., despite the absence of any evidence that Pressler had engaged in wrongdoing.

Senators were particularly angered by a memorandum dated Nov. 7, 1979, in which Webster permitted Pressler to be substituted at the last minute for another member of Congress. Pressler refused to take the bribe when it was offered.

Webster said Friday that he had only about 30 minutes to make the decision. "I had to make a judgment call," Webster explained. "I could have said, 'Don't let him come until we know more.' They were saying it would arouse suspicion.

"So I said the system will protect him because it has to be clear that it is a criminal purpose and... no money was to pass until a criminal representation was made."

This is the reason, Webster said, that he wrote onto the 1979 memo, "Try to be sure this new senator knows he is being paid (bribed)."

Webster acknowledged that the targets of the Abscam investigation were often in effect chosen by influence peddlers, who told undercover agents which politicians would accept money.

"We tried to confine it to those we had reason to suspect would engage in this kind of activity. In some cases that rested heavily on the reliability of the middleman.

The middleman "had brought us people who did the things we have seen on the tapes, and when he called and said, 'Mr. So-and-So would like to come,' we would try to check to see what else we knew. But we thought that was a pretty good reason itself since we had these mechanisms to protect whoever came."

Webster cited what he called a four-tier system of protection against entrapment.

First, the bureau tried to make its offer sleazy enough that only those predisposed to crime would accept.

Second, no payments were made "until a criminal representation was made." In other words, no payments were made until the legislator agreed to use his office for gain.

Third, prosecutors monitored nearly all of the meetings as they occurred. If a bribe offer were being made improperly, the prosecutors could call the undercover agents to set them straight.

his own use.

Webster said he didn't think his supervision of the investigation should have been expected to turned up these allegations. And he noted that they might not be true.

Webster emphatically denied accusations by columnist Jack Anderson that the Justice Department had not pursued some of those whose names came up

during Abscam, possibly because of their allegiance to President Jimmy Carter.

He said some of the criticism of his conduct investigation was contradictory. "We stop soon. We stopped too late. We went after people who had no business going after. We did not go after those who should have gone after because of the and authority." Those statements simply

Webster acknowledged that the tactics of the Abscam investigation were often in effect chosen by influence peddlers, who told undercover agents which politicians would accept money.

"We tried to confine it to it. . . we had reason to suspect would engage in this kind of activity. In some cases that rested heavily on the reliability" of the the middleman.

The middleman "had brought us people who did the things we have seen on the tapes, and when he called and said, 'Mr. So-and-So would like to come,' we would try to check to see what else we knew. But we thought that was a pretty good reason itself since we had these mechanisms to protect whoever came."

Webster cited what he called a four-tier system of protection against entrapment.

First, the bureau tried to make its offer sleazy enough that only those predisposed to crime would accept.

Second, no payments were made "until a criminal representation was made." In other words, no payments were made until the legislator agreed to use his office for gain.

Third, prosecutors monitored nearly all of the meetings as they occurred. If a bribe offer were being made improperly, the prosecutors could call the undercover agents to set them straight.

And finally, all the tapes involving members of Congress were flown to Washington and reviewed by Webster and Justice Department officials.

"So we had a lot of checks in the system," Webster said. The only alternative, he said, was "not to do it at all."

"I would not like to see these techniques — which have application not only to public corruption but also organized crime, to foreign counterintelligence, to drugs — not like to see them impaired by some over-cautionary requirement that we have to go into court for a warrant."

Webster acknowledged that his supervision of the Abscam investigation did not uncover some allegations of abuses now coming to light. For example, he did not know that middleman Melvin Weinberg had coached Williams on how to boast about his influence.

Webster said he was concerned when he learned about the coaching incident. But he said that it had occurred relatively early in the investigation and that Weinberg had been instructed not to do it again.

He also noted that Williams testified at his criminal trial that Weinberg's coaching had not affected his behavior at the meeting.

Webster said he had not known about allegations that the undercover FBI agents had an improper relationship with Weinberg. Those allegations were made by Weinberg's wife in court documents filed in Williams' case. Mrs. Weinberg killed herself shortly afterward.

She maintained that one agent had accepted gifts of two fur coats from Weinberg. The agent has said the coats were collateral for a loan.

And she said that Weinberg slipped away from FBI agents long enough to pick up an illegal payment for

contributions.
n is the pervasive
gressmen through
ributions in return
ific legislative

he wanted to limit
bscam to permit
n. Responding to
am was "sleazy,"
operation was
nat.
being sleazy," he
is in part protects

M, Page 18

ause of their political
Carter.
sm of his conduct at the
ory. "We stopped too
e went after people we
e did not go after people
r because of their power
ments simply are not

accurate."

Webster said he had known that Abscam would be
controversial. "Someone said to me that if you want to
really draw fire, investigate a labor union or a
member of Congress."

But he had not anticipated what he called "the
lingering, recurring question" of "how did you select
these targets?"

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sunday, March 14, 1982

editorials

The Senate's Ethics Ordeal

The United States Senate's long ordeal over what to do about the misconduct of Democratic Sen. Harrison Williams of New Jersey has been ended by Mr. Williams' resignation from the Senate in the face of an almost certain vote to expel him. Although the resignation has spared senators the unpleasant duty of expelling a colleague who was convicted by a federal jury last May on bribery and conspiracy charges, it has not resolved the problem of what to do about the questionable methods of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI brought about the conviction of Mr. Williams and six other members of Congress through its so-called Abscam investigation, in which the lawmakers were offered money and other inducements to do political favors for fictitious Arab sheiks.

Of highest immediate importance to the Senate, however, was the task of dealing with Mr. Williams' conduct. Although Sen. Williams steadfastly maintained that he had violated neither the criminal law nor Senate rules, the Senate Ethics Committee had unanimously concluded that, apart from his felony conviction, he had not abided by proper standards of Senate conduct. And that judgment was supported by the proven acceptance by the senator of a personal interest in a titanium mine that would have benefitted from Senate activity that he had promised an Abscam agent. That evidence refuted Mr. Williams' insistence through five days of Senate debate that he had done nothing worse than behave foolishly.

Although Sen. Williams offered an unpersuasive Senate defense and failed even to apologize for his shabby conduct, he at least performed the useful service of exacting from the Senate a pledge to investigate the FBI's questionable technique of setting traps baited with federal money to ensnare officials who have not been accused of crime. That practice, as we have said before, raises serious questions of public policy: How far should the FBI be allowed to go in artificially creating temptation? Should it be permitted at its own discretion to set up shop in the lobbies of Congress and offer multimillion-dollar payoffs to legislators of its own choosing? Might an unscrupulous executive send FBI undercover squads to entrap its enemies in Congress?

After Watergate, those questions are not frivolous. They should concern any lawmaker who cares about invasion of privacy, entrapment and other potential abuses of the FBI's power. That power, used unscrupulously against the legislative branch, could raise problems of intrusion into the constitutional separation of powers. A portent on the issue is evident in Republican Sen. Larry Pressler's advertising of the fact that the FBI sent him a letter exonerating him of misconduct in the Abscam affair. Must certification of honesty by the FBI now be regarded as a badge of acceptability? However the Williams case comes out on appeal through the courts, the issues raised by it will remain to be examined and resolved by Congress.

THE GREENSBURG LIBRARY
GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 15601

Can
31

19 March 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. William H. Webster
Dir. FBI
9th and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Sir:

Public Response Re Abscam

We have had requests for information as to the meaning of the letters in the word ABSCAM. I have checked all our sources in this library and have checked with the office of Congressman Don Baily but have been unable to get the information.

Would it be possible to get this information from your office?

We would appreciate your help. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Catherine Kercheval

Mrs. Catherine Kercheval
Greensburg Library
237 S. Penna. Avenue
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
15601

Telephone 412-837-5620

Ack.
4-9-82
C/M:ju

47

65-19561-404X

APR 20 1982

2004 R/ent

Florida

26 March 1982

Mr. William Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response RE: ABSCAM

Dear Sir,

I am so proud, of you and your Staff, that I just had to take pen in hand to interrupt your busy schedule.

I noticed in this morning's local newspaper, that the U.S. Senate continues to live in fear, of a thing called "Abscam".

It is my opinion that probably the greatest service your office has rendered to this nation in my lifetime is this thing called "ABSCAM".

If I might share a thought with you Sir, I suspect that long after you and I are dead and gone, those male prostitutes in high office will continue to re-examine their moral values, never knowing whether or not they might be our next victim!! Entrapment to me sounds like an educated word, like "Ooops! I got caught with my hand in the cookie jar".

If you have trouble understanding what I have said above, or it is not coherent, it is because of my over-exuberance and happiness in the function of your agency.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: 1 clipping from "Sentinel Star" newspaper, dated 26 March 1982.

DRS/143

63-17561-406

10 APR 15 1982

4/11/82

acw

cmr: [signature]

acw/cmr

Senate panel probes charges against FBI in Abscam

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate created an eight-member committee Thursday to investigate charges by former Sen. Harrison Williams and others that the FBI

abused its powers in the Abscam undercover operation.

The four Democrats on the committee will be Sens. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, who was Williams' chief defender in the Sen-

ate; Walter D. Huddleston of Kentucky; Dennis DeConcini of Arizona; and Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont.

Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker said he will probably name the four Republicans next week.

Williams, a New Jersey Democrat, resigned March 11 in the face of almost certain Senate expulsion. He maintained that his conviction of Abscam bribery and conspiracy charges was the result of entrapment by the FBI.

The Senate agreed to investigate the FBI's conduct in Abscam, which also resulted in the convictions of six House members.

MM
9

[REDACTED]
MISSISSIPPI

3/30/82

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Affairs S. R.

Dear Mr. Webster.

The F.B.I. should be highly commended on the ABSCAM project & you should have an annual one & in 10 years we would be able to get rid of about 80% of the crooks in Congress. The only complaint I have heard about the F.B.I. is you stopped too soon.

There are daily letters to the Editor in our papers down here & they all praise the F.B.I. as the enclosed one does.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal had a long editorial giving Senator Baker hell for his congratulating Williams.

Keep up your good work & if it weren't for the F.B.I. the Russian would be in the White House instead of all around it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

63-17561-408

7 APR 23 1982

ENCLOSURE

110

ack: NVNddb 4/12/82

CORRESPONDENCE



Mom's Reply Fits Case Of Harrison Williams

To The Commercial Appeal:

An open letter to Ex-Senator Harrison Williams:

How dare you?! You are obviously a man with a distorted definition of crime and the resulting punishment — at least when it comes to you being involved. You say you were "trapped." Yes, indeed you were, much like a robber in a stillwatch. The prisons are full of individuals caught in such operations, however, that does not make them or you any less guilty.

A Revolting Affair

To The Commercial Appeal:

I commend your editorial, "A Clean Get-away." Howard Baker lauding Harrison Williams' resignation as courageous — indeed — the FBI was the courageous department for beautifully doing its job. An exorbitant pension and excessive rights make the whole affair even more revolting. I trust the public will at least bear those shams in mind with upcoming elections.

TOM ROBINSON

2144 Monroe

Once you were informed of the nature of the meeting you attended with the phony oil sheik, you should have left — never to return. But no. You saw fit to continue this undignified activity, not once, or twice, but on several occasions, and offer your position and influence for money.

Now you're upset. You got caught. I say, "Bully for the FBI. A job well done." This is the only thing that haunts me: Since you have been in Congress 23 years, how many other opportunities similar to this one presented themselves to you and you benefited from them?

As I was growing up, I can remember doing things I knew I had no business doing, such as staying out past curfew, disobeying my parents, and I always got discovered. As I was receiving my punishment, I would plead with my mother — "But Mama, I didn't really mean to do it!" Her response was always the same, "Yes, you really did mean to do it, you just didn't mean to get caught." Truer words were never spoken.

I firmly believe this fits you like a tailor-made suit.

E. SEAL

4476 Westbury

ENCLOSURE

62-17561-408

T
b
W
t
v
l
t
u
h
V
o
t
l
i
T
S
n
8.

3/26/82

Re: Congratulation

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response Re: HBSCRA

Dear Mr. Webster,

Congratulations on the Abscam cases. I have long contended that the U.S.A. has more real enemies in Washington, D.C. than in the rest of the world combined.

Few Americans understand that the foreign lobbyist, the influence peddler, the kick back artist, the crooked "defense" contractor and the bribe taker (and giver) are our real enemies! Many of them are "prestigious gentlemen" retired government officials, prominent law firms, "retired" high ranking military leaders working in collusion with the "defense" contractors.

I do not fear the farm boy from the Ukraine, the factory worker from Stalingrad, or the barefoot paupers of El Salvador or Vietnam. (DII)

My fears for my country are of those who in their greed for big money destroy the nation by corruption. These enemies don't wear the red star, wave the red banner, or sing the Internationale, or carry an A. Kalashnikov 47. No, they wear a Brooks Bros pen stripe suit, often draw a huge government pay check or pension checks and then they become "Presidents" or "Vice Presidents" overnight for the, so called, "defense" contractors. No bribe take these sophisticated vipers, just a million dollars a year salary, but a million 63-17561-100 for real defense.

Keep up the good work. At least the "departing" knows where the tigers are hiding out in the jungle. Colonel Hyman Ruckover could probably give you all the leads you can use to snare the vipers.

A Real Great American

OK DMH:dd6

4/2/82

Class of 1944

U. S. Merchant Marine Academy

In about [redacted] in [redacted] Alabama I had the "honor" of testifying before some of your group when an able bodied seaman filed a complaint against our ships Capt. [redacted] I was a deck cadet then. The H.B. was a guy we called [redacted] I learned then that the F.B.I. was a good, fair organization willing to stand up for the lowly seaman.

b6
b7C

[redacted]
[redacted] Cal. [redacted]

Personal

William Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

20003

MAR 30 2 18 PM '82

RECEIVED
MAR 30 1982

MD
FBI

U.S.

mb
14

March 27, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Mr. President:

I thought you would like to know that there are some of us in this country who believe in our political system, and that the morals of a politician are not suspect simply because he (or she) is a politician.

Please read this article and accept my support in the Senatorial quest to establish investigative ground rules for the FBI's inquiries into political corruption.

Good luck!

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
NJ

The President of the United States
Washington, D.C.

20515

63-17561-410X
4-66

17 JUN 14 1982

Reg
[initials]

No ask warranted
Index shows no record
[Redacted]
CYPAT

19

MOUNT OLIVE CHRONICLE

Serving Morris County's Fastest-Growing Municipality

MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP, N.J., THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1982

Cry For Politician's Scalp Scares One

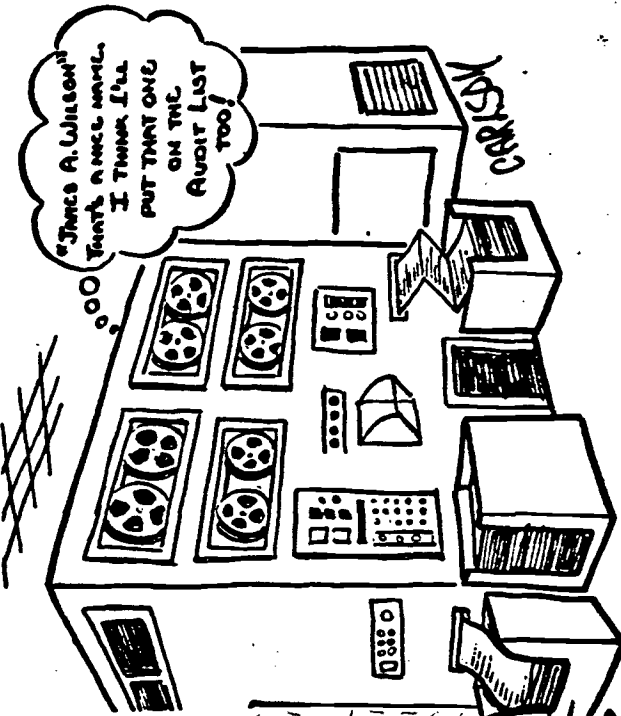
By ROBERT GATELY

Man kind has a propensity for making mistakes. One advantage we have over other families in the animal kingdom is that we can think. Paradoxically, our ability to think is the very reason why we fall sometimes. But the survival of a species lies within our ability to reason, to learn from our mistakes.

The Absecon issue has brought us to a crossroad where we must avoid making a terrible mistake. Absecon has triggered a common response throughout the nation not seen since the early 1950's. I hear the cries to 'hang the corrupt politician' all around me — from my van driver, to my neighbors, to every member of my family. And it scares

me afraid because I know that the universal cry to save our democracy from the 'pinko commies' 30 years ago did more to weaken than anything else. That whole era was a mistake. Yet that righteous rage that spurred McCarthy to go 'commie hunting' was preceded by yet another similar miscarriage of justice — the Salem witch hunts. We didn't see the connection then. But today can be different.

Today, crime surrounds us and quite a few times it has been allowed to flourish because of the



misuse of political power. The desire to do away with crime is righteous. However, with history as our guide, we must conclude that the politician is not the enemy. Crime is.

A politician seems to be most vulnerable in succumbing to the dark side of human nature. We are consumed with indignation when an elected official is caught with his hand in the till. But we are opportunists. Politicians just have more opportunities.

What can happen if we do not show a careful pursuit to eliminate crime in the White House is what did happen during the McCarthy era. Imagine the FBI having a free hand in dealing with political wrong-doing. What if the FBI is given the power to go after any public official without cause or reason? This can happen. Our cries for justice and praise for catching thieves can make it happen.

It will not make any difference if a few innocent people who have borderline morality are hunted and ruined, not as long as a few criminals are caught in a trap every once in a while, rekindling our interest to have a corrupt-free democracy. All-right, so a few politicians suffer in this noble quest. War on crime is just like any other war. Or is it? Some people must suffer for the overall good of the cause. Or should we?

What if this pursuit for justice progresses elsewhere? Why not go after corporate heads since they can abuse power as much as politicians and with the same cancerous effect.

And what about religious people who are siphoning funds for personal gain? Let's go after them too. And the income-tax cheater who likes to exaggerate the truth. Or the shoplifter or, least of all the clandestine character who knows just what to say to a telephone operator to get a free call — let's get them all.

Make no mistake about it, this is a reasonable progression. Three decades ago similar cries for justice drew this kind of head hunting and led us to the point where no one was safe to speak their minds or write their views for fear of losing their jobs of their social status. It was a dark, dark time for us all. One we care not remember or repeat.

We are all capable of some kind of anti-social behavior, especially if small, planted temptations are flaunted in our face. Entrapment without cause or legitimate reason is not part of our democratic process. Just ask former United States Senator Williams.

Williams' behavior cannot be condoned. But if the reports are true that the FBI acted on the spur of the moment and without the slightest indication that the Senator was in any way predisposed to commit a crime (Star Ledger, 3/14/82, Section 1, page 8), then the conduct of the FBI must be questioned, and checked.

We must go about this pursuit to reduce corruption at the top in a sane, non-destructive way. The upcoming Senate query (if it ever gets off the ground) into the FBI's methods of entrapment must be carried out with the intention of developing future standards which will justify having criminal investigations. Giving the FBI carte

blanche with regards to deciding who are candidates for investigations will have disastrous consequences as history has shown us. Our pursuit of justice is noble one, but it can not be instituted by a mass craze to erase a part of our million years to develop.

We went full speed ahead with Absecon and caught a couple of crooks. All well and good. But the time has come to all back and reflect on what we have done and where we are going. We will march forward if we do not repeat history losing, if only temporarily, our basic freedoms to act and communicate creatively; and backwards if our actions force us to lock our doors out of fear and make us a nation of non-doers.

There are no demons, ghouls or witches in Washington. We just have men and women, some of whom misuse their elected power. Let's free ourselves of this kind of person. But let's make sure first that a malefactor exists before we intrude on privacy. A politician is not automatically a crook inspite of our cynical feelings to the contrary.

[REDACTED] N.Y.

NB
TV

OUTSIDE SOURCE

MIF

Public Response Re Abscam April 6, 1982

Mr. William Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Webster,

Recently, there has been a lot of comment regarding the role of the F.B.I. in the ABSCAM investigations.

I want to congratulate you and all the members of your bureau for the thorough job you did in the investigation and to express my gratitude, in particular, for making the public aware of the corruption involved, as well as bringing those connected with Abscam, to trial.

The comments that I read about, such as "investigating the conduct of the FBI"... is sheer nonsense; indeed, every member of your staff should be commended for a task well done.

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]

b6

63-17561-412

8 APR 28 1982

4/22/82
asb
NR:dar

110

CORRESPONDENCE

DAVENPORT, EVANS, HURWITZ & SMITH
LAWYERS

NATIONAL RESERVE BUILDING

HOLTON DAVENPORT (1892-1966)
ELLSWORTH E. EVANS
LOUIS R. HURWITZ
DEMING SMITH
LYLE J. WIRT
CARLETON R. HOY
LAWRENCE L. PIERSON
RICHARD A. CUTLER
MICHAEL F. PIEPLOW
P. DANIEL DONOHUE
DAVID L. KNUDSON
EDWINE E. EVANS
ROBERT E. HAYES
MICHAEL L. LUCE
LOIS ANN ROSE
CHARLES D. GULLICKSON
SARAH RICHARDSON

1982 APR 12 SIBUFA05 SOUTH DAKOTA 57102

April 6, 1982

AREA CODE 605
336-2880

OUTSIDE SOURCE

The Honorable William Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Room 7176, J. Edgar Hoover Building
9th and Penn Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Re: Abscam Tapes and Transcripts

Dear Director Webster:

This is to advise that our office represents Mid-continent Broadcasting Company, which operates the KELO-Land television stations across the State of South Dakota. KELO is interested in obtaining a copy of all the videotapes, and any transcripts or notes thereof, taken during the so-called "Abscam" investigation which show Senator Larry Pressler of South Dakota. My client has confirmed with Senator Pressler that he has no objection to the release of the requested materials to our office.

Of course, we would expect to reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred in producing the requested copies. We presume that your office would have no difficulty approving this request, since the investigation is concluded so far as Senator Pressler is concerned.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if anything further is needed to support the request.

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL F. PIEPLOW
For the Firm

MFP:lp

cc: Senator Larry Pressler
Mr. Fred Ertz

Please file response
dated May 7, 1982
access. Jmm

RECEIVED

APR 16 1982

O. E. A.

21 MAY 27 1982

(COPY)

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 9-1-11

JUN 24 1982

Public Response to
ABSCAM

— ^{OUTSIDE SOURCE} —
Please forward this to the
director — with special attention
to my comments on page 3. I print
2000 of these for free public distribution
and already have received a number
of favorable comments. Thank you.

(Handwritten initials)

Stan Hadden

Stan Hadden

P.O. Box 131
Harpers Ferry, W. Va.
25425

THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FBI BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

63-17561-414

ES APR 27 1982

(Handwritten initials)
66 MAY 20 1982
(Handwritten signature)

(Handwritten initials)



Federal Camp At Harpers Ferry



RELAXATION AMID CONSTANT VIGILANCE — The city of Harpers Ferry, Va. has been the scene of considerable conflict since the beginning of the war, frequently changing hands as one side leaves and the other takes over. The Federal forces, now in occupation of the area, have been constantly harassed by the Rebel raiding parties from nearby areas.

For Sale: LARGE COLLECTION OF CUT GLASS. Some signed pieces. From a 25-year collection. The AMERICAN BRILLIANT PERIOD. Please contact and see at BRADY'S ANTIQUES (see our map).

I WILL BUY old military items, postcards, letters, old toys, almost anything old and small. Please call Stan Hadden, 535-2259.

SPARKS FROM THE CAMPFIRE

JOE PARSONS, THE MARYLAND BOY

JOE ENLISTED IN THE FIRST MARYLAND REGIMENT, and was plainly a "rough" originally. As we passed along the hall we first saw him crouched near an open window, lustily singing "I'm a bold soldier boy", and observing the broad bandage over his eyes, I said:

"What's your name, my good fellow?"

"Joe, sir," he answered, "Joe Parsons".

"And what is the matter with you?"

"Blind, sir, blind as a bat."

"In battle?"

"Yes, at Antietam; both eyes shot out at one clip." Poor Joe was in the front at Antietam Creek, and a bullet had passed directly through his eyes, across his face, destroying his sight forever. He was but 20 years old, but he was as happy as a lark!

"It is dreadful," I said.

"I'm very thankful I'm alive, sir. It might have been worse, yer see," he continued. And then he told us his story:

"I was hit," he said, "and it knocked me down. I lay there all night, and the next day the fight was renewed. I could stand the pain, yer see, but the balls was flyin' all around, and I want-

(PLEASE SEE JOE PARSONS on page 3)

WELCOME TO HARPERS FERRY AND BOLIVAR VISITORS!

After the difficult winter months it is a genuine pleasure to escape into the outdoors and wander around this truly historic area. Many of our visitors probably are not aware that this area includes two small towns: Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, sharing the same main street, postoffice, fire and ambulance services, water, etc.

You must visit the Lower Village and enjoy the restored portions maintained by the National Park Service. But by all means drive up the big hill and browse and shop among the many pleasant other attractions. PLEASE SEE OUR MAP ON ANOTHER PAGE. There are three points of entry ← onto Washington/High Street.

Antique shops, bank, barber shop, beauty shop, dentist, art galleries, restaurants, hotels, KOA campground, grocery stores, auto repair and wrecker service, gasoline stations, patchwork and quilting supplies, pewter smith, gift shops, etc. Above all, we have some of the friendliest folks you will meet anywhere.

So please come and visit us -- our map will tell you where we are --

6th ANNUAL BLUE RIDGE QUILT SHOW. KOA KAMP- GROUND, . . . May 7 & 8 -- 9 to 9.

May 9 -- 9 to 5

\$1.50 donation. Demonstrations. Raffle. Boutique.

A PRAYER FOR TODAY AND EVERYDAY

May all men set aside prejudice and selfishness, And put their minds and efforts together for a common cause

That will benefit all; one law for all men.

--Contributed by Ralph Stutler, Huntington.

HOW do you catch a unique cat?

(Unique up on it!).

HOW do you catch a tame cat?

(Do it the tame way!).

"I SUPPOSE YOU HEARD OF THE GREAT VICTORY we gained here a few days ago. The steamer Virginia opened the Blockade at the mouth of the James River. She went down in the evening with several others and sunk the Cumberland & Congress. We set fire to the Cumberland and the powder magazine exploded about 12 o'clock in the night. the Virginia to. . . We could see the whole action from where we are camped. . . some 300 prisoners our loss was 20 killed & wounded. . . Send your letters to me in care of Capt. Prouffe, Co. "B", 5th La. Regt, Williamsburg, Va." --Above are excerpts from letter written March 17, 1862 by soldier of famous Louisiana Tigers (Hays' Brigade); can be bought at Red Bull Antiques (see our map).

THEY MUST HUNGER IN FROST WHO WILL NOT WORK IN HEAT.

TO DREAM of dandelions, if gathered, is ominous; to see a large bed of them indicates you have many new enemies forming, if in love be sure your sweetheart is playing false. OF BEING IN THE DARK and unable to find your way denotes that the dreamer shall be blinded by some passion and much troubled. OF DOGS, if they fawn and fondle upon you, it is a lucky omen; if they snarl and bark at you, then depend that enemies are secretly endeavoring to destroy your reputation and happiness.

GEORGE COURTNEY

PAUL I. COURTNEY

Owner

COURTNEY AND SON

Used Auto Parts

24-hour heavy & light duty towing

Free Intercom Service. On Polk St.

Dial: 535-6352 or 535-6353. SEE MAP.

BELLE-HAUS PATCHWORKS

P.O.B. 107, Harpers Ferry, W.V. 25425

QUILTED CLOTHING MADE TO ORDER.

PILLOWS, WALL HANGINGS, QUILTS.

Open Thursday thru Sunday, 10 - 5

Antiques bought and sold.

Consignments Welcome.

63-17561

ed to get away. I couldn't see nothin', though. So I waited and listened; and at last I heard a feller groanin' beyond me.

"Hello!" says I.

"Hello yourself," says he.

"Who be yer? says I -- a rebel?"

"You're a Yankee," says he."

"So I am" says I. "What's the matter with you?"

"My leg's smashed," says he."

"Can't yer walk?"

"No," says he. "Can't yer see?" I asked."

"Yes."

"Well," says I, "you're a ---- rebel, but will you do me a little favor?"

"I will," says he, "ef I ken."

"Then I says: 'Well, ole butternut, I can't see nothin'. My eyes is knocked out; but I ken walk. Come over yere. Let's git out o' this. You pint the way, an' I'll tote yer off the field on my back.'"

"Bully for you," says he.

"And so we managed to git together. We shook hands on it. I took a wink outen his canteen, and he got onto my shoulders.

"I did the walkin' for both, an' he did the navigatin'. An' ef he didn't make me carry him straight into a rebel colonel's tent, a mile away, I'm a liar! Hows'ever the colonel came up, an' says he, 'Whar d'yer come from? who be yer?' I told him. He said I was done ferand couldn't do no more shootin'; and he sent me over to our lines. So, after three days, I came down here with the wounded boys, where we're doin' pretty well, all things considered."

"But you will never see the light again, my poor fellow," I suggested, sympathetically.

"That's so," he answered glibly, "but I can't help it, you notice. I did my dooty -- got shot, pop in the eye -- an' that's my misfort'n, not my fault -- as the old man said of his blind hoss."

"But -- 'I'm a bold soldier boy,'" he continued, cheerily renewing his song; and we left him in his singular merriment. Poor, sightless, unlucky, but stout-hearted Joe Parsons.

PERSEVERANCE IS THE BRIDGE BY WHICH DIFFICULTY IS OVERCOME.

REBEL OFFICER KILLED IN NEW CREEK SKIRMISH

NEW CREEK, VA., Mar. 16, 1863--A brisk skirmish occurred here on March 14, in which one Confederate officer was killed. The following report was given of the incident:

"On Saturday night last, three Rebel soldiers of Bradley T. Johnson's regiment, were discovered at the stable of J. H. Carekaddon, and after they had succeeded in taking therefrom the horses, were followed and fired on by two home guardsmen.

"After a spirited engagement of about 20 minutes the two citizens recovered the horses, killing a Lieut. Joseph G. W. Marriott, and severely, if not mortally, wounding the other two. Marriott was interred in the church graveyard near the scene of the action, where his friends may find his body if desired."

TO BAKE A PEACH PIE -- Take juicy and mellow peaches; peel, stone, and slice them; then put them in a deep pie plate lined with the under crust; sprinkle through them a sufficient quantity of sugar, equally distributed; put in about a tablespoonful of water; dust a little flour over the top; cover with a rather thick crust, and bake nearly an hour.

....Sounds good! Taken from The New Hydro-pathic Cook-Book, published in 1853.

A LIPER SHOULD HAVE A GOOD MEMORY.

patches, inc.

HUGE SELECTION CALICOS
AND QUILTING SUPPLIES
quilts, wall hangings, pillows,
character cutouts.

phone: 304-535-9988

NEW LOCATION: 1499 Washington St.

Open 7 days a week: 9:30 'til 5

JASON'S ANTIQUE CLOCK SHOP

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES.

Buy/Sell/Trade. Ph. 304-535-2450

Open every Sat. & Sun. 9 - 5.

By appointment or chance, Mon.--Fri.

Robert J. Hardy, Prop.

FOR A REALLY REFRESHING COLD DRINK OR HAND-DIPT ICE CREAM, stop at Butts' Fountain & Grocery

ALSO: local newspapers, ice, tables
for relaxation, SANDWICHES made to
order, groceries, games. Get away
from the crowd! Drugstore. In Bolivar.

June Brady Antiques

WASHINGTON STREET

HARPER'S FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA 25425

by Stanley K. Hadden, of Bolivar

THE FIRST THREE WORDS in the Preamble to the U. S. Constitution are: "WE, THE PEOPLE . . ."

The Constitution also states: "All legislative powers herein granted" are given only by the people.

Yet, our Congress repeatedly ignores the Constitution and sets rules of conduct for its club members . . . rules that enable a member of Congress to steal or do anything else that he/she wants . . . and go scot free.

FOR INSTANCE--Sen. Talmadge took \$35,000 from his office expenses and expects to be richer by \$700,000. He said "I did nothing wrong."

Congressman Richard Hanna took more than \$200,000, admitted his guilt, and drew suspended sentence of 6 to 30 months.

Congressman Diggs was convicted on 11 counts of mail fraud and 18 counts of making false official statements in a \$60,000 kickback scheme. He was re-elected to Congress.

HOWEVER--two youths stole fifty cents from a college student; they drew 2½ to 7 years jail. A woman citizen ate two strawberries in a supermarket and was sentenced to 6 months' probation and to work in the county park program.

Sen. Williams, most recently convicted by a jury OF CITIZENS and sentenced to jail in the Abscam exposure, was actually honored by his fellow members of Congress! I find that to be unbelievable and despicable! WORSE, the Senate now is raising all manner of Cain and clamors for their own investigation of the FBI. Senators claim they make their own rules . . . forgetting that "WE THE PEOPLE" grant them power.

I personally deny Congress the right to claim immunity from laws that I and mine must live by. I deny Congress the right to prohibit the FBI from looking into their activities. The Senator who said "it might happen to more of us" spoke the truth . . . but I strongly favor the FBI catching more of the rascals. I ask my Senators and Congressman to desist from such investigation and to provide more money for FBI.

The men and women of the FBI place their lives, daily, on the line to uphold the Constitution and to protect all citizens' lives and rights. Those members of Congress who now seek to prevent investigations of their own wrongdoings have, in my opinion, placed themselves above the laws under which I live. They have thus violated MY constitutional rights -- and I call upon any who will join in the mighty effort to insist that the FBI be instructed and financed to force Congress to live under our ONE LAW... the same law governing all citizens.

AN HONEST WORD IS BETTER THAN A CARELESS OATH.

SKIRMISHES REPORTED NEAR CHARLES TOWN

CHARLES TOWN, VA., Feb. 13, 1863--The Rebel cavalry led by R. W. Baylor attacked two Federal scouting parties yesterday near here and near Smithfield, resulting in brief engagements in both places.

Of the fighting, Brig. Gen. B. F. Kelley reported: "Yesterday about 1 p.m. a squad of R. W. Baylor's cavalry attacked a small scouting party of the 12th Pa Cavalry from Kearneysville, of 12 men, near Smithfield, killing 1, wounding 2, and capturing 4 men and several horses. About 4 p.m. my scouts from Harpers Ferry fell in with the same party a few miles south of Charles Town and after a running fight of several miles, recaptured our men and horses, and captured Lieut. George Baylor, 2 of his men and several horses."

WANT TO KNOW HOW TO PRICE OLD POSTCARDS? Then contact John McClintock, The Postcard Dealer, Box 1765, Manassas, Va. 22110.

Mr. William Webster, Chief,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
The Justice Department,
Washington, D.C. 20530

OUTSIDE SOURCE

syd
2/23

Public Response re Abscam

✓ Dear Mr. Webster:

My last letter to you
was on February 11, I believe.

mn

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DE-51 63-17561-2114X

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5/18/82
ack
500:00L referred USPS
File

DO-15310

Does not pertain to ABSCAM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ABSCAM

Does not pertain to

I might mention in closing that although it does not affect this case, the FBI is wrong on the ABSCAM operation. Entrapment is wrong and should be prohibited. Do not put temptation in front of anybody as it is mortal to sin. Great damage is being done to the Congress and soon the pillars of democracy will be crumbling down.

Let us be done with ABSCAM and let us be done with [REDACTED] atrocity. A clever genius, whatever that man does is wrong. He has a talent for doing the wrong thing and is a very serious menace to the country. He has a surface mildness but is actually a very dangerous man, a dog murderer and a human murderer. He has harmed the Jewish people

tremendously although they still cannot comprehend
it and support him against me.

b-6 b-7C [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Very truly yours

[REDACTED]

Minnesota
55108,
10 April, 1982.

P.S. I have restored my name as it is on my
birth certificate [REDACTED] to offset the
damage [REDACTED] as done to [REDACTED] which
was unofficially changed from [REDACTED] many
years ago.

L Does not pertain to ABSCAM

b-6
b-7C

[redacted], Kansas
April 21, 1982

[redacted] Kansas

OUTSIDE SOURCE

MF
Mr. William Webster
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBI Building
20535

Public Response re Abscam

Reference: The "Abscam" scandal

Dear Sir:

I read with incredulity in my local newspaper, your quoted statement that U.S. citizens want the FBI to continue with these types of operations! You must be receiving your feedback from your own staff! That is not my opinion or the opinion of, I believe, the majority of us mid-westerners. As a matter of fact, I have yet to speak to anyone in my sizeable circle of acquaintances, who supports the FBI's amoral, if not illegal, Abscam activities.

I hasten to add, however, that this is not in defense of shady Congressmen! Rather, it is simply to point out what should be a fairly obvious fact. That the proper and intended role of the Federal Bureau of Investigation should be exactly what its name implies - the investigation of federal crimes, not manufacturing crimes in order to entrap citizens!

As I have indicated to my three Congressional representatives via a copy of this letter, if you actually do entertain the mistaken assumption that Abscam was a proper function of your organization; then, perhaps, we should change the FBI logo-grams to FBMCE (Federal Bureau of Manufactured Crimes and Entrapment)!

These types of operations and the fuzzy thinking of supposedly intelligent people who espouse them, absolutely horrify me! For it is diametrically opposed to our American ideals of justice and fair play!

We must not allow them to continue, for the implications inherent for all of us in this travesty are frightening.

Yours truly,

[redacted signature]

Copies to:

1. Senator Robert Dole
2. Senator Nancy L. Kassebaum
3. Representative "Pat" Roberts
1st Congressional District

Enclosures: (1)

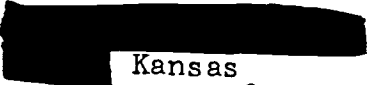
1. Letter to Senator Robert Dole
(copy)

12 MAY 3 1982

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM

CORRESPONDENCE


Kansas
April 21, 1982

The Honorable Robert Dole
United States Senator - Kansas
Washington, D.C. 20510

Reference: The "Abscam" scandal.


Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter that I have just mailed to Mr. William Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It accurately expresses my opinion as to the improper role of the FBI in these types of operations (Abscam).

Manufacturing crimes is not the proper or intended role of a federal investigating agency! If Congressmen are subject to trial and conviction of FBI manufactured crimes; then, conversely, using identical logic, FBI agents involved should be subject to trial and conviction for the attempted bribery of Congressmen! Both ideas are asinine!

These amoral, if not illegal, FBI operations must be discontinued, the questionable integrity of a minority of Congressmen notwithstanding!

Yours truly,



b-6

63-17561-416
ENCLOSURE

NB
30 b-6

MC

b-6

SMA

CUESIDE SOURCE

April 20, 1982

Mr. William H. Webster
Director
FBI
Washington, D.C. 20013

Public Response
to Obama

Dear Mr. Webster:

I read in the paper today that you have made a statement that the FBI will continue investigations such as the recent Abscam. I agree with you wholeheartedly and think that any public official who associates with the type of people you had in the Abscam plots should be prosecuted fully. I would encourage you and the FBI to continue their excellent work in this field to protect the taxpayers from dishonest officials in Washington and elsewhere.

Thank you for all your good work in this area.

Sincerely yours,

dl

b-6

DE-111
N-111

63-17561-417

10 MAY 3 1982

60 JUN 07 1982

ACK
NFI
4-29-82

Handwritten signature

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. William H. Webster
Director of FBI
JEH Building, Room 7162
10th and Pennsylvania N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Webster:

I read in today's Miami Herald of your answer to the criticism raised by Senator Cranston with respect to the ABSCAM situation. I hasten to tell you that, in my opinion, the overwhelming majority of Americans agree with the FBI's conduct, role and enormous dedication. I, frankly, think that Senator Cranston was way out of line and that he really and truly owes the FBI an apology. I thought his conduct and that of Senator Inouye was thoughtless and inappropriate.

I recall hearing you make a speech in Phoenix, Arizona, a couple of years ago dealing with the FBI's work. I was enormously impressed and greatly pleased, and as a citizen and taxpayer and a lawyer, I want to thank you on behalf of my family and myself for doing a fine job. You are appreciated and I am glad that you spoke up.

Good luck.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Alan Cranston
Senator Daniel K. Inouye

15 MAY 4 1992

ACK
CAM:msb
4-29-82

68 JUN 10 1982

~~6-12-13~~

Morality or Legality? That Is the Question

OUTSIDE SOURCE

By DELPHINE BLACHOWICZ

Abseam flashed into our national consciousness several weeks ago and, like a giant nova, radiated brilliantly for a few days before expiring, presumably into the inter-galactic cold of the due process which Herald Price Fahringer commended to us in his op-ed article on March 2.

That no one has challenged Mr. Fahringer's thesis is an amazement to me and further repudiation in my mind of his belief that no charges should be exposed to the light of public scrutiny until "the law" has pursued its course.

The issue is not legalisms. The issue is the morality of those whom we choose to represent us. While we live under the best system of government yet devised by man, it is far from perfect, being "of the people" who, though possibly created in God's image, are not yet god-like in their actions.

This includes the cadre of lawyers who already wield far too much sway over our activities. That some of them are estimable gentlemen is not to be denied. Unfortunately, however, the converse is also true of a goodly number who are devoted not to justice and equality but to legalisms.

Legalisms such as "entrapment" which argue less for morality than for circumvention of the intent of the law and the ultimate good of the public as a whole. Thus, we cannot afford to consign the fate of our country solely to the jurists.

OUR GOVERNMENT is one of checks and balances. In addition to the three branches of government first conceived by the founding fathers, we have a fourth, the free press, to protect us from the other three. We need input from all, as each in itself and by itself, is imperfect. To deny the media access to events as they occur is to seriously impair the system of checks and balances which make us a nation of the freest people on this earth.

Whatever was behind the premature revelation of the Abseam investigation will not ultimately redound to the public's disadvantage except insofar that fewer have been implicated than would otherwise have been the case. Even with television tapes in hand showing subjects in flagrante delicto, those individuals will in all likelihood merely find themselves clever lawyers, cry entrapment, and get off with little more than censure from their colleagues, not necessarily for their actions per se but rather for their stupidity in not being more sophisticated in their rascality.

Without the occasional, albeit short-lived interest of the media, the public would have no basis upon which to consider the possible derelictions of their "servants" when determining who is to represent them come the next election day. The courts may rule but the people must speak. Better that they do so with too many rather than too few facts.

WHILE WE ARE in many ways

ill-served by the superficiality of the media, we are even more ill-served by those for whom the law is their livelihood. The law in this country is presently so far divorced from justice and equality that were we to await the results of secret legal process virtually every individual with enough funds to buy legal talent clever enough to find sufficient precedents hinting at infringements upon his legal rights would escape due process and the public would never know of those instances in which justice was sacrificed upon the altar of technicalities.

Our nation would be even more in thrall to the machinations of attorneys whose dedication is too infrequently to what is right, preferring rather clever loopholes with which to seek exoneration for those of their clients capable of paying substantial fees.

Were this an ideal world in which those tutored in the law were dedicated first and foremost to the public weal, I would grant that those suspected of misconduct should be sheltered from the sometimes overzealous, sometimes erroneous, sometimes

ill-conceived reporting of current events by the media.

But the press, despite its many shortcomings, remains our ultimate recourse, in part because the legal system is not serving us well enough.

I agree that the revelation of Abseam "has a destructive potential ten times that of Watergate." Why then do we hear little more of it? Might it be because the majority of legislators are themselves lawyers well skilled in finessing their own kind?

A HUE AND CRY has arisen, especially in incestuous Washington, against the FBI when for once that agency should have our gratitude for truly acting to preserve us against the double standards which exist for those who honor the old-fashioned morality which is the bedrock of the law and those who merely seek to manipulate it for their own ends.

Cover-up was Nixon's game, a game which almost destroyed our country. Granted the system worked, but would it have done so without the prodding of the press? Those who choose to live in the limelight should not seek the shadow of legalisms to protect any betrayal of public trust, be it in the form of temptation proffered or temptation enjoined.

DELPHINE BLACHOWICZ, a native of North Tonawanda, is a freelance writer.

Mr. William H. Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

5 MAY 5 1982

Texas

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Viewpoints

Sunday, April 13, 1980

100th Centennial Edition

Mr. Webster - Even though this is two years old, you are still proud of it, hope it offers some solace.

60 JUN 07 1982

LOUISIANA

April 22, 1982

DO. & STATE

Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Insp.	
Intell.	
Lab.	
Legal Coun.	
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

Honorable William H. Webster
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Webster:

I wish to congratulate you on the outstanding services performed by you and your department in the ABSCAM and BRILAB cases. All of my friends with whom I have discussed this matter feel the same as I do; that is, that you have indeed rendered a great service to our nation.

Certainly, members of Congress should pass a resolution commending you and your department rather than criticizing your actions as a few of them have.

Continue the good work.

Respectfully,

DPK:ysh

CC: United States Attorney General
United States Senators from Louisiana
Member, House of Representatives from 8th
District of Louisiana

63-17561-423
APR 27 1982

59 JUN 10 1982

ack: AB:ddb 5/6/82

CORRESPONDENCE

Public Response Re
ABSCAM
In.
April 19, 1982

William H. Webster
Director FBI
J. Edgar Hoover Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir:

52
Please let me say that you have my whole hearted support in the Abscam Sting Operation. Please do continue.

It has always been my opinion that the behavior of public officials as well as other white collar areas of society have a profound affect on the behavior and attitude of the rest of society.

The pardon of President Richard Nixon and his subsequent wealth was an advertised undisputable fact that crime in certain levels of society does pay, as a classic example.

Sincerely

b-6
(7)
In.

63-17561-425

50 JUN 11 1982
Big

ACK
MIN:MSL
5-6-82

CORRESPONDENCE

mn/30

April 20 1982

Dear F.B.I. Director W. Webster,

Thank you for your good job of convicting those seven congressmen.

May God bless

you.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

b6

[Redacted name] AZ

Public Response
HBOC/M

65-17561-427

MAY 10 1982

[Handwritten initials]

COPIES
ATTENDANCE

AK
mmsb
5-6-82

April 2 1982

William H. Webster, Director F.B.I.

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

6 Pull - Response Re Abscam

Hooray! for Abscam, use it again whenever possible. Senator Cranston should be reminded that a Court, Jury and Judge found the defendants guilty!

The members of Congress are not above the law of the land, therefor, a Blue Ribbon Committee (?) is not needed to investigate a matter that has been legally settled.

I commend you and your organization for fine work and believe many other citizens like myself are behind you.

A Concerned Citizen

DE

b-6

63-17561-429

10 MAY 6 1982

CORRESPONDENCE

ACK

S-4 - 82

68 JUN 10 1982

[REDACTED]
Washington, D.C. [REDACTED] b6

October 13, 1980

President Jimmy Carter
c/o Mr. Chew
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

I think that the White House has been cleansed by the WATERGATE (supported by the Washington Post) and the Capital Hill has been cleansed by the ABSCAM (supported by the FBI). Though the judicial system also has to be cleansed (see comments from attached 10 clips), it cannot be done by a lonely small man like me.

Since my petition for a writ of certiorari was denied by the U.S. Supreme Court on 10/6/80, I have exhausted all my remedies within the courts or through other channels.

The Chief Justice has failed to keep his words as he said on 11/29/77 in London (see attached).

After having carried on a one-man crusade for justice for almost 1900 days, I come to believe that I have to be one of "many guys who go in with good intentions and they got blasted a couple times and every decent thought they had is gone", as Mr. William Greider wrote on "The Corrupt Politician: An American Perennial?" (Washington Post, 12/26/76).

It is not that I have lost confidence in the fight for justice, but perhaps I don't know how to fight. After my letter of 4/1/80 was sent to you, I received a letter of encouragement from Mr. Stephen Clark in the Dept. of Justice on 5/14/80. I tried and tried as he instructed. Even though the facts and the law support my position, no judge bothered to hear my case or to read my pleadings.

No one can fight a lonely war. Since you are the Commander-in-Chief not only for the soldiers who fight enemies abroad, but also for the civilians who fight evils here at home, I request your support. Through your support, the judicial system could also be cleansed.

As the Washington Post disclosed the WATERGATE findings and the FBI revealed the ABSCAM findings, so must you reveal the injustice suffered by men such as myself.

I urge your support in pursuit of "a more pure and more clean and more decent and more honesty than almost all governments" as you said at the CIA on 8/16/78.

Respectfully yours,
[REDACTED] b6

*original sent with
all new 10/15/80
[REDACTED]*
P.S.: Please refer to the letters I sent to you since 1/22/77.

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET4

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒ For your information: most of the withheld information does not pertain to ABSCAM.

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

63-17561 enclosures to serial 431

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
 X FOR THIS PAGE X
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Exec AD Adm. _____
 Exec AD Inv. _____
 Exec AD LES _____
 Asst. Dir.: _____
 Adm. Servs. _____
 Crim. Inv. _____
 Ident. _____
 Intell. _____
 Laboratory _____
 Legal Coun. _____
 Plan. & Insp. _____
 Rec. Mgnt. _____
 Tech. Servs. _____
 Training _____
 Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____
 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director's Sec'y _____

FBI/DOJ

HON. WILLIAM H. WEBSTER

APRIL 19, 1981

DIRECTOR, FBI

Re ABSCAM

Public Response

THE HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD SUPPORT YOUR TACTICS USED IN ABSCAM.

DEAR HON. WEBSTER:

I SUPPORT YOU. I SUPPORT YOU. I SUPPORT YOU. I SUPPORT YOU 100%

I SUPPORT YOU NOT SINCE I HAVE SEEN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST, IN WHICH YOU DEFENSE ABSCAM, BUT SINCE ABOUT 2 YEARS AGO WHEN I FIRST READ THE ABSCAM STORY IN THE POST.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

I SUPPORT YOU NOT ONLY IN WORDS, BUT ALSO BY ACTION.

ENCLOSED ARE COPIES OF THE LETTER I SENT TO FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, DATED 10/13/80; A CRY FOR JUSTICE, DATED 3/24/81; AND MY 17TH AND 19TH MOTION TO REINSTATE CASE, FILED 5/20/81 AND 9/29/81 FOR YOUR REFERENCE. AFTER YOU HAVE READ THEM, YOU WILL FIND THAT HOW SINCERELY I SUPPORT YOUR TACTICS. I SUPPORT YOU FROM THE DEER OF MY HEART.

WE, THE SMALL PEOPLE, STRONGLY SUPPORT YOU TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATING IN HIGH PLACES, IN ALL PLACES. MANY FRAUDS HAVE GROWN OUT OF MINOR ONES. IF THE FRAUD IN HIGH PLACE IS TOLERATED, IT WILL ENCOURAGE THE SPREAD OF MORE FRAUDULANT BEHAVIOR EVERY WHERE.

WE ARE LEADING AMONG NATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY, WHY NOT ALSO IN CLEAN THE GOVERNMENT? WE NEED YOU TO DO MORE, NOT LESS, IN INVESTIGATING CORRUPTION.

SINCERELY YOURS,

PLEASE RETURN MY PAPERS.
 THANK YOU.

ACK: N13:dd/ 5/5/82

b-6

cc: [unclear]

1982
 MAY 2 1982

El OUTSIDE SOURCE

Rhode Island

Public Response Re Abscam April 20, 1982.
Dear Mr. Webster:

I would like to add one more letter of congratulations to the ones you have already received about the Abscam investigation.

I think it was wonderful (and a real tribute to the basic integrity of the American people) that the jurors convicted in all cases in spite of all the pleas of the congressmen that they were completely innocent and ~~that~~ ^{intended to} ~~do~~ no wrong.

Also I was very pleased ^{63-1756/4/33} how the Congressional Committee ~~was all set to~~ ^{was all set to} vote to expell Senator Williams, if he had not ~~resigned~~ ^{resigned} just in the nick of time.

MAY 6 1982

Congratulations on your successful work to keep our Senators and Representatives on the straight and narrow.

ack
5/5/82

com/kac

68 MAY 20 1982


Sing CORRESPONDENT

b-6

Mr. William H. Webster
FBI Director

Washington
D.C. 20535

ACK
CAM:dae
5-4-82

 b-6
OUTSIDE SOURCE

April 19, 1982

tl
William H. Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Webster:

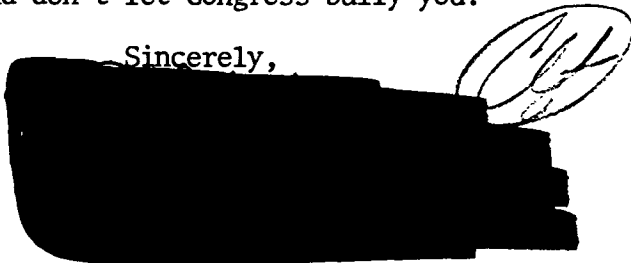
Public Response Re Abscam

You and your organization have been subjected to a great deal of criticism in connection with the Abscam investigation. It has been particularly interesting to read and hear the cries of "unfair" from our elected representatives.

Most people would have buckled under to the pressures by now, and I was encouraged to read of your firm position in this morning's Los Angeles Times. In a more perfect world, it would be unnecessary to keep tabs on people in high office; but as your people proved through Abscam, we have our imperfections.

Keep up the good work, and don't let Congress bully you.

Sincerely,

 *CH*

b-6
63-17561-435

MAY 6 1982

68 MAY 25 1982

CORRESPONDENCE

CALIFORNIA

ack: CAM: ddb 515182

mb/3

Exec AD Inv.	—
Exec AD Adm.	—
Exec AD LES	—
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	—
Crim. Inv.	—
Ident.	—
Intell.	—
Laboratory	—
Legal Coun.	—
Plan. & Insp.	—
Rec. Mgnt.	—
Tech. Servs.	—
Training	—
Public Affs. Off.	—
Telephone Rm.	—
Director's Sec'y	—

FBI/DOJ

[REDACTED]
California [REDACTED]

b-6

April 19, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

FBI Director William H. Webster
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Public Response RE: ABSCAM

Dear Mr. Webster:

I am a retired person (62 years old) who has lots of time to let public officials know how I feel, hence this letter.

I wish to commend you, and the Bureau, for the successful conclusion to the Abscam situation.

Unfortunately you have drawn a lot of criticism of your methods of the investigation of this case.

Senator Alan Cranston was one of the first on his feet to condemn President Nixon because a "bug" had been planted in Democratic Headquarters. At that time there were, probably, so many listening devices in Republican Headquarters you couldn't shift your gum from one side to the other without it being heard by Democrats! Now Senator Cranston is upset when we catch some real crooks from his side!

It is a deplorable fact that we now seem to have a large segment of our journalistic, judicial and Congressional members who seem to worry more about the criminal's rights than the welfare of society as a whole!

Please keep up the good work. Thank God for the FBI!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

b-6

63-17561-437

EXP. PROC.
38 APR 23 1982
34

47

5711
17 APR 23 1982

ack: NB:ddb 5/10/82

CORRESPONDENCE

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Wm. Webster,
F. B. I. Chief,

Dear Mr. Webster,
Public Response We are indeed
proud and honored to have
people with qualities such
as yours, and love for their
country, to start the Abscam
and to bring it to such a
glorious end. We will not
give up and we will always
have hopes as long as we have
people like yourself and
President Reagan to protect
us from the type of officials
that were involved in the
Abscam scheme. Congratulations,
with our highest regards.

Please keep up the good
work. 63-17561-439

16 NOV 11 1982

Newspaper
ENCLOSURE

It turned my stomach
upside down, every time
I heard Mr. Williams and
Mr. Kelly on TV and the

Exec. AD-Adm.	_____
Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
Exec. AD-LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Svcs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Svcs.	_____
Training	_____
Telephones Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

newspapers, of blaming the
F. B. I. instead of having
the decency and patriotism
to admit their guilt, and
save the country a bunch
of money for their trial.
And also give an example
for other sleazy individuals
who have a tendency to
think along those same lines.

Thank you,
and may God bless.

[REDACTED]

b⁶

ACK
mm:msb
5-6-82

6-6-82
mm

PROC.

5/10/82 APR 21 1982

ABSCAM

From A-1

● The FBI uses "con men" and others with criminal records in such investigations because that is what it takes to catch the guilty. "Abscam was purposely sleazy so that no one would stick around it, except someone who wanted to deal with sleazy people," he said.

● Abscam did not set out to investigate members of Congress but instead began as an attempt to catch art thieves. As the inquiry developed, it moved into other areas and congressmen walked into the net. "We did not select any congressmen," Webster said. "They were self-selected."

● Anyone who listens to the FBI tapes of meetings between public officials and undercover agents will learn the extent of the corruption.

"If you hear those tapes, you get some idea of how blatantly corrupt those discussions were. There wasn't anything coy about them."

● Through letters, the public has let the FBI know that it wants the bureau to continue investigating corruption in high places. "The message is: Don't let anybody stop you," Webster said.

In the Abscam probe, which resulted in the convictions of Democratic Sen. Harrison Williams of New Jersey, who resigned his seat March 11, six House members and 11 others, FBI agents posed as representatives of a fictitious Arab sheik who was willing to pay cash for legislative favors, including help in gaining permanent U.S. residency.

Webster said he had been "necessarily constrained" until now in discussing the extraordinary investigation. But with the completion of all the trials, and as House and Senate committees prepare for inquiries into the Abscam methods, he said he now felt free to talk about the probe.

Webster hotly rejected Cranston's contention that Abscam ran "totally out of control." He said the charge, which Cranston made during debate over Williams' proposed expulsion from the Senate, was leveled "in a moment of rhetoric and emotion ... unsubstantiated by the actual facts."

It was when he was asked whether the FBI would ever conduct another undercover investigation of congressmen that Webster said, "The answer is, we will always follow our leads."

Of the seven members of Congress, including Florida Rep. Richard Kelly, who were convicted of bribery and other Abscam crimes, one member, Democratic Rep. Michael Myers of Pennsylvania, was expelled. Williams and Democratic Rep. Raymond Lederer of Pennsylvania resigned under threat of expulsion and the others were defeated for re-election.



William Webster

FBI chief defends tactics of Abscam

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Breaking a long, self-imposed silence, FBI Director William Webster has strongly defended the FBI's controversial Abscam investigation and has made it clear that he would use the same undercover methods again, if necessary.

With firmness and occasionally some heat, Webster declared that "we will always follow our leads." And he dismissed allegations that the investigation, which resulted in the conviction of seven members of Congress on bribery and other charges, somehow trapped innocent men.

During a 90-minute interview in his office, the FBI chief and former federal judge offered point-by-point replies to criticism of Abscam by Democratic Sen. Alan Cranston of California and other legislators.

In response to the questions, Webster said:

Please see ABSCAM, A-6

Orlando Sentinel Star
Mon. April 19 - 1982

ENCLOSURE

DEAR MR. WEBSTER,

OUTSIDE SOURCE

I DO HOPE
YOU WILL NOT
LET THE CRITICS
OF ADSCAM
DETER YOU.

PLEASE ^{PULL A PAPER}
^{ABSCAM} CONTINUE THE
GOOD WORK.
WE NEED YOU - 3141

63-17567-3141

[REDACTED]

FOR SURE

47

CORRESPONDENCE

ack: ESH: ddb 5/10/82

6-6

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT PUBLISHING CO.

710 North Tucker Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo., 63101.

(314) 342-1212

Published Daily, Monday through Friday, and Weekend

G. DUNCAN BAUMAN, Publisher

GEORGE A. KILLENBERG

Executive Editor

RAY J. NOONAN

Managing Editor

MARTIN L. DUGGAN

Editorial Page Editor

The Globe-Democrat is an independent newspaper printing the news impartially, supporting what it believes to be right and opposing what it believes to be wrong without regard to party politics.

To Catch a Thief

FBI Director William H. Webster is on solid ground in his defense of the bureau's Abscam investigation which resulted in the conviction of seven members of Congress — one senator and six representatives — on bribery and other charges. The wonder of it is that Webster should feel compelled to make any defense at all.

That's the way it is, though, when dealing with the likes of Alan Cranston, liberal Democratic senator from California, and his ilk. Cranston has criticized the Abscam investigation as improper, charging that the federal law enforcers tried "to induce members of Congress to commit crimes."

On the face of it that is absurd, and the closer one looks at it the more ridiculous it becomes. As Webster makes clear, there was larceny in the hearts of those convicted.

Webster shot back at his critics by dismissing allegations that the Abscam investigation somehow entrapped innocent men. The FBI chief and former federal judge from St. Louis offered point-by-point replies to criticism of Abscam. In rapid-fire order, he said that:

— The FBI uses "con men" and others with criminal records in such investigations because that is what it takes to catch the guilty. "Abscam was purposely sleazy so that no one would stick around it except someone who wanted to deal with sleazy people."

— Abscam did not set out to investigate members of Congress, but instead began as an attempt to catch art thieves. As the inquiry developed, it moved into other areas and congressmen and a senator walked into the net. "We did not select any congressmen. They were self-selected. They found their way to us."

— Anyone who listens to the FBI tapes of meetings between public officials and undercover agents will learn the extent of their corruption. "If you hear those tapes, you get some idea of how blatantly corrupt those discussions were. There wasn't anything coy about them."

Webster concluded by saying that, through letters, the public has let the FBI know it wants the bureau to continue investigating corruption in high places. "The message is: Don't let anybody stop you," Webster said.

Hear that, Sen. Cranston?

Abscam purposely 'sleazy,' FBI director says

By RONALD J. OSTROW
and ROBERT L. JACKSON
Globe-Democrat-Los Angeles Times
News Service

WASHINGTON — Breaking a long, self-imposed silence, FBI Director William H. Webster has strongly defended the FBI's controversial Abscam investigation and has made clear that he would use the same undercover tactics again, if necessary.

With firmness and occasionally some heat, Webster said that "we will always follow our leads." And he dismissed allegations that the investigation, which resulted in the conviction of seven congressmen on bribery and other charges, somehow trapped innocent men.

During a 90-minute interview in his office last week with two Los Angeles Times reporters, the FBI chief and former federal judge from St. Louis offered point-by-point replies to criticism of Abscam by Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., and others.

In rapid-fire order, he said that:

► The FBI uses "con men" and others

Public's message is: "Don't let anybody stop you," Webster says.

with criminal records in such investigations because that is what it takes to catch the guilty. "Abscam was purposely sleazy so that no one would stick around it except someone who wanted to deal with sleazy people," he said.

► Abscam did not set out to investigate members of Congress, but instead began as an attempt to catch art thieves. As the inquiry developed, it moved into other areas and congressmen walked into the net. "We did not select any congressmen," Webster said. "They were self-selected. They found their way to us."

► Anyone who listens to the FBI tapes of meetings between public officials and undercover agents will learn the extent of the corruption.

► "If you hear those tapes, you get some

idea of how blatantly corrupt those discussions were. There wasn't anything coy about them."

► Through letters, the public has let the FBI know that it wants the bureau to continue investigating corruption in high places. "The message is: Don't let anybody stop you," Webster said.

In the Abscam case, which resulted in the convictions of Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr., D-N.J., who resigned March 11, six House members and 11 others, FBI agents posed as representatives of a fictitious Arab sheik who was willing to pay cash for legislative favors, including help in gaining permanent entry into the United States.

Webster said he had been "necessarily constrained" until now in discussing the extraordinary investigation.

But with the completion of virtually all trials, and as House and Senate committees prepare for inquiries into the methods used in Abscam, he said he felt free to talk about how the bureau managed the investigation.

4-19-82

Calif.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Mr. Webster;

My sincere congratulations for your Abscam operation that proved it was needed and it was very successful.

Ever since writer, Mr. Lloyd Shearer broke the story in his "INTELLIGENCE REPORT" in Parade Mag. about our Congressmen and Senators personal activities of corruption and fraud, we have needed such a service of our government to protect our country from these unscrupulous people who believe that they are beyond reproach.

One Senator from Calif. who has vocally criticized you and the whole Abscam operation, for discovering that one of his good friends of the Senate, has corrupted himself because of you, should be watched very carefully. The statements that he has made to the Senate and to the press, in the defense of his corrupted colleague, leads me to believe that this Senator has been around an environment that no longer allow him to distinguish from right or wrong. I'm sure he knew it before he was elected to the Senate or became a politician.

There is one fact that I have learned about Congressmen and Senators. They will always protect their own. And they will always hush up a scandal within their ranks, no matter how illegal it is. It's their silent code among themselves. Just like the Con's in San Quentin and the rest of our prisons.

Again, Congratulations and thank you;

CONFIDENTIAL

ack
ESH:msh
5-7-82

1329

6-6

57 45

Sir,

I am that portion of the newspaper clipping I have circled.

The next time you meet Senator Cranston, may I suggest you advise him to earn his salary as you do.

Surely a Senator should understand "Duty, Honor, & Country."

Sincerely,

OUTSIDE SOURCE

ACK

5-6-80

Florida

63-17561-445

3 MAY 11 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

1982

Orlando, Fla.

ABSCAM

A-6 Sentinel Star, Monday, April 19, 1982

From A-1

FBI chief defends tactics of Abscam

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Breaking a long, self-imposed silence, FBI Director William Webster has strongly defended the FBI's controversial Abscam investigation and has made it clear that he would use the same undercover methods again, if necessary.

With firmness and occasionally some heat, Webster declared that "we will always follow our leads." And he dismissed allegations that the investigation, which resulted in the conviction of seven members of Congress on bribery and other charges, somehow trapped innocent men.

During a 90-minute interview in his office, the FBI chief and former federal judge offered point-by-point replies to criticism of Abscam by Democratic Sen. Alan Cranston of California and other legislators.

In response to the questions, Webster said:

Please see ABSCAM, A-6

● The FBI uses "con men" and others with criminal records in such investigations because that is what it takes to catch the guilty. "Abscam was purposely sleazy so that no one would stick around it, except someone who wanted to deal with sleazy people," he said.

● Abscam did not set out to investigate members of Congress but instead began as an attempt to catch art thieves. As the inquiry developed, it moved into other areas and congressmen walked into the net. "We did not select any congressmen," Webster said. "They were self-selected."

● Anyone who listens to the FBI tapes of meetings between public officials and undercover agents will learn the extent of the corruption.

"If you hear those tapes, you get some idea of how blatantly corrupt those discussions were. There wasn't anything coy about them."

● Through letters, the public has let the FBI know that it wants the bureau to continue investigating corruption in high places. "The message is: Don't let anybody stop you," Webster said.

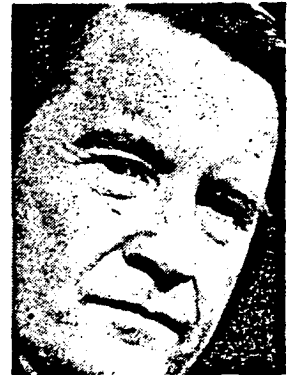
In the Abscam probe, which resulted in the convictions of Democratic Sen. Harrison Williams of New Jersey, who resigned his seat March 11, six House members and 11 others, FBI agents posed as representatives of a fictitious Arab sheik who was willing to pay cash for legislative favors, including help in gaining permanent U.S. residency.

Webster said he had been "necessarily constrained" until now in discussing the extraordinary investigation. But with the completion of all the trials, and as House and Senate committees prepare for inquiries into the Abscam methods, he said he now felt free to talk about the probe.

Webster hotly rejected Cranston's contention that Abscam ran "totally out of control." He said the charge, which Cranston made during debate over Williams' proposed expulsion from the Senate, was leveled "in a moment of rhetoric and emotion ... unsubstantiated by the actual facts."

It was when he was asked whether the FBI would ever conduct another undercover investigation of congressmen that Webster said, "The answer is, we will always follow our leads."

Of the seven members of Congress, including Florida Rep. Richard Kelly, who were convicted of bribery and other Abscam crimes, one member, Democratic Rep. Michael Myers of Pennsylvania, was expelled. Williams and Democratic Rep. Raymond Lederer of Pennsylvania resigned under threat of expulsion and the others were defeated for re-election.



William Webster

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response Re Abscam

APRIL 20, 1982

DEAR MR. WEBSTER,

THANK YOU FOR HAVING THE
COURAGE TO STAND UP TO THE CROOKED
PEOPLE IN CONGRESS THAT ARE INVEST-
IGATING THE F.B.I. AND ABSCAM.

I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO USE
ABSCAM OR ANY OTHER MEANS YOU
HAVE TO CATCH THESE AND ALL OTHER
POLITICIANS THAT USE THEIR OFFICE,
AND GOD KNOWS THERE ARE PLENTY
OF THEM. GOOD LUCK TO YOU SIR.

Sincerely,

ack. NB: ddb 5/14/82

3 MAY 11 1982

47

copy

APRIL 19, 1982

FBI DIR. WILLIAM WEBSTER:

OH, NO. DON'T STOP ABSCAM. THIS IS ONE
SMALL, LITTLE CHANCE WE HAVE TO CATCH THE
SCRUFF IN HIGH PLACES. HOW ELSE?

OUTSIDE SOURCE

ALL THE TAINTED GUILTY, THE SOOTH SAYERS,
WILL DISSEMBLE + WRING THEIR HANDS. BUT I
ALWAYS THOUGHT THE WAY YOU CATCH A CROOK
IS WITH A CROOK. I'M SURE THIS IS THE
WAY PEOPLE CONCEIVE IT.

AND, IN OUR LIVES WE CONCEIVE OF THE
FBI AS THE ONE TO DO IT. WHO, OR WHAT ELSE,
AS WE LEARNED FROM KIDS - THE BAD BOYS +
THE GOOD BOYS.

ONE CAN GO ON + EMBROGATE ON THE WORRIES
OF THE POLICE STATE, FOREVER. IT ENDS UP WITHOUT ANY-
BODY DOING ANYTHING. 63-17561-447

I WOULD SAY, ONWARD WITH ABSCAM AND NOT
LIMIT IT TO THE CONGRESS BUT (AS I THOUGHT
I READ) ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY TO CATCH THESE
GREEDY HYPOCRITES.

12 MAY 11 1982

RESPECTFULLY,

PHONE NUMBERS
OFFICE
HOME

LA

b-6

OP. LIT. Response Re 1165-1111

April 22, 1982

Mr. William Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
Washington, D.C.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Mr. Webster:

I recently read your response to criticism of the F.B.I. activities in the Abscam investigations. You mentioned in your response that through letters the public has let you know that they approved of the investigations and that they want you to continue to investigate corruption in high places.

I want you to know that my family and I completely support your investigations, and want you to continue them. Your response was superb, you are right on target. Keep up the good work.

We also want to thank you and your agency for your dedication and duty to our country under sometimes very difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

10 MAY 13 1982

RECEIVED

Copy 1 - To William Webster
Copy 2 - Pres Ronald Reagan
Copy 3 - To Newsday Editor

April 18, 1982

CAM
4

Mr. William Webster
Director F.B.I.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir, PUBLIC Response Re. ALBANY

I strongly endorse your
directives to your agents re "Albany"

These degenerate, crooked,
public elected officials
no matter their rank or
title should be punished
harshly for their conduct in
office. The use of the powers
of office for misuse and
self-enrichment and aid &
comfort to these evil and
nefarious organized criminals
cannot be punished harshly
enough. I endorse public

CONFIDENTIAL